

The Beaufort Wind Scale

Force	Wind speed	Description	Wave height	Sea state
0	<1 knot	Calm	0m	Mirror like
1	1-3 knots	Light air	Up to 0.1m	Ripples on the surface
2	4-6 knots	Light breeze	Up to 0.3m	Small wavelets with smooth crests
3	7-10 knots	Gentle breeze	Up to 0.9m	Large wavelets with crests starting to break
4	11-16 knots	Moderate breeze	Up to 1.5m	Large waves begin to form with white foam crests
5	17-21 knots	Fresh breeze	Up to 2.5m	Moderate waves and many white horses
6	22-27 knots	Strong breeze	Up to 4m	Large waves, spray and white foam crests
7	28-33 knots	Near gale	Up to 5.5m	Breaking waves, a heaped sea, lots of spray
8	34-40 knots	Gale	Up to 7.5m	Frequently breaking, moderately high waves
9	41-47 knots	Severe gale	Up to 10m	High waves, flying spray and breaking crests
10	48-55 knots	Storm	Up to 12.5m	Very high waves, almost totally white with foam and spray
11	56-63 knots	Violent storm	Up to 16m	Extensive foam, exceptionally high waves, visibility seriously affected
12	>64 knots	Hurricane	16m +	Air filled with foam and spray, very poor visibility